

Chair Wm. Weston J. Newton

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*Micajah P. (Micah) Caskey, IV
Neal A. Collins
Patricia Moore "Pat" Henegan
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Jeffrey E. (Jeff) Johnson
Mandy Powers Norrell
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor
Robert Q. Williams*

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Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

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John Taliaferro (Jay) West, IV
Chris Wooten*

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Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting

**Monday, December 9, 2019
Blatt Building Room 110**

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. Pursuant to Committee Rule 3.1, the meeting of the House Legislative Oversight Committee was called to order by Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton. All members of the Committee were present for all or a portion of the meeting, except Representative Neal A. Collins, Representative Laurie Slade Funderburk, Representative Mandy Powers Norrell, and Representative Marvin R. Pendarvis.

Minutes

- I. Representative Edward R. Tallon, Sr., moves to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 27, 2019. A roll call vote is held, and the motion passes.

Representative Tallon’s motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 27, 2019.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Micajah P. “Micah” Caskey, IV	✓			
Gary E. Clary	✓			
Neal A. Collins				✓
Chandra E. Dillard	✓			
Laurie Slade Funderburk				✓
Patricia Moore “Pat” Henegan	✓			
Lee Hewitt	✓			
William M. “Bill” Hixon	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Jeffrey E. Johnson	✓			
Mandy Powers Norrell				✓
Marvin R. Pendarvis				✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓			
Tommy M. Stringer	✓			
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon, Sr.	✓			
Bill Taylor	✓			
John T. West	✓			
Robert Q. Williams	✓			
Christopher Sloan “Chris” Wooten	✓			
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓			

Discussion of Agenda and Procedure

- I. Chairman Newton states the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the following items: the Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee’s study of the Rural Infrastructure Authority; the Healthcare and Regulatory Subcommittee’s study of the Department of Mental Health; and scheduling the next agencies for study.

- II. Chairman Newton notes that the Healthcare and Regulatory Subcommittee’s study of the Department of Mental Health was approved one hour prior to this meeting.

Discussion of the Rural Infrastructure Authority

- I. Representative William M. (Bill) Hixon provides an overview of the Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee’s study of the Rural Infrastructure Authority, or “RIA.”

- II. Representative Hixon explains the subcommittee has one finding arising from the RIA study: the need for legislative action to provide resources to support statewide access to broadband services, including in rural communities. Additionally, he notes House Bill 3780, which already has been approved by the House, proposes establishing a fund for the RIA and broadband expansion into rural areas without access.

- III. Representative Hixon notes the subcommittee has five recommendations arising from the RIA study pertaining to the following topics:
 - i. clarified roles and responsibilities;
 - ii. coordinating infrastructure efforts;
 - iii. updating accounting requirements;
 - iv. updating state code terminology; and
 - v. adding definition to a specified code.

- IV. Ms. Bonnie Ammons, Executive Director of the Rural Infrastructure Authority, under oath, addresses questions regarding the RIA study and its current work.

- II. Representative Hixon moves to approve the study on RIA. A roll call vote is held, and the motion passes.

Representative Hixon’s motion to approve the study on RIA.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Micajah P. “Micah” Caskey, IV	✓			
Gary E. Clary	✓			
Neal A. Collins				✓
Chandra E. Dillard	✓			
Laurie Slade Funderburk				✓
Patricia Moore “Pat” Henegan	✓			
Lee Hewitt	✓			
William M. “Bill” Hixon	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Jeffrey E. Johnson	✓			

Mandy Powers Norrell				✓
Marvin R. Pendarvis				✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓			
Tommy M. Stringer	✓			
Edward R. "Eddie" Tallon, Sr.	✓			
Bill Taylor	✓			
John T. West	✓			
Robert Q. Williams	✓			
Christopher Sloan "Chris" Wooten	✓			
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓			

Discussion of the Department of Mental Health

- I. Representative John Taliaferro (Jay) West, IV, provides an overview of the Healthcare and Regulatory Subcommittee’s study on the Department of Mental Health, or “DMH.”

- II. Representative West notes the subcommittee has five findings arising from the DMH study pertaining to the Vulnerable Adults Fatalities Review Committee, a multidisciplinary investigating entity which includes among its membership the DMH Director, on the following topics:
 - i. importance of charge
 - ii. communication of recommendations; and
 - iii. administrative issues.

- III. Representative West states that the subcommittee has 27 individual recommendations arising from the DMH study addressing the following topics:
 - i. patient care;
 - ii. organizational structure;
 - iii. performance measures;
 - iv. employee recruitment, retention, and compensation;
 - v. community health services;
 - vi. collaboration; and
 - vii. pass-through funds.

- IV. Representative Williams states that he would like more time to review the DMH study before proceeding.

- V. Mr. Mark Binkley, Interim State Director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, under oath, addresses committee member questions regarding coordination of services with the Department of Corrections.

Discussion of Committee Administrative Matters

- I. Chairman Newton provides an overview of administrative matters, including the ability of members to submit written statements for inclusion in Committee Studies pursuant to Standard Practice Rule 12.6.

- II. Chairman Newton then opens discussion into recommendations for agencies that should next undergo study.
 - i. Speaking on behalf of the Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, Representative Hixon provides recommendations of agencies for study. Specifically, he recommends the Department of Commerce and the Jobs-Economic Development Authority.
 - ii. Speaking on behalf of the Education and Cultural Subcommittee, Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr., provides recommendations of agencies for study. Specifically, he recommends the Arts Commission and the State Library.
 - iii. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Subcommittee, Representative Gary E. Clary provides recommendations of agencies for study. Specifically, he recommends the State Ethics Commission and the Department on Aging.
 - iv. Speaking on behalf of the Healthcare and Regulatory Subcommittee, Representative West provides recommendations of agencies for study. Specifically, he recommends the Department of Health and Human Services as well as the State Accident Fund.
 - v. Speaking on behalf of the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Representative Tallon provides recommendations of agencies for study. Specifically, he recommends the South Carolina Attorney General's Office.

Chairman Newton opens discussion for comments on the recommended agencies for study.

- i. Representative Tommy M. Stringer expresses concerns regarding oversight of the Judicial Merit Selection Committee. Chairman Newton notes this entity may not be an agency as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 2-2-10(1) for purposes of legislative oversight of executive agencies.
- ii. Representative Bill Taylor expresses interest in bringing the Department of Social Services back in front of the committee for an update from its new director. Chairman Newton notes the committee may invite the agency head to testify at a future meeting.

Representative Clary moves to adopt the agencies named by the subcommittee chairs for study in 2020. A roll call vote is held, and the motion passes.

Representative Clary’s motion to adopt the subcommittee chairs’ recommendations of agencies for study in 2020.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Micajah P. “Micah” Caskey, IV	✓			
Gary E. Clary	✓			
Neal A. Collins				✓
Chandra E. Dillard	✓			
Laurie Slade Funderburk				✓
Patricia Moore “Pat” Henegan	✓			
Lee Hewitt	✓			
William M. “Bill” Hixon	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Jeffrey E. Johnson	✓			
Mandy Powers Norrell				✓
Marvin R. Pendarvis				✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓			
Tommy M. Stringer	✓			
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon, Sr.	✓			
Bill Taylor	✓			
John T. West	✓			
Robert Q. Williams	✓			
Christopher Sloan “Chris” Wooten	✓			
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓			

VI. There being no further business, the meeting adjourns.